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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Country/entity</b>      | India<br>Mizoram   |
| <b>Region</b>              | Asia and Pacific   |
| <b>Agreement name</b>      | Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Mizoram and the Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF) |
| <b>Date</b>                | 26 Apr 2005  |
| <b>Agreement status</b>    | Multiparty signed/agreed   |
| <b>Interim arrangement</b> | Yes  |

### **India-Adivasi Conflicts (1955 - ) (Northeast India)**

Several of seven sister states in Northeast India have had ongoing conflicts with the central Indian government, as well as among themselves following India's independence from the British Empire in 1947. Northeast India, in particular, lags behind the rest of India in infrastructure development. Tensions also exist between the various ethnic groups and Indian nationals migrated from elsewhere.

#### **Bodoland:**

The Bodo are a predominantly Christian group of about four million people living in the mountainous region of eastern Assam, India. Since 1986, the guerrilla organization – the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) – fought for independence of Bodoland. An initial truce was signed in 1989 and negotiations began with the Assam government. However, the NDFB resumed the conflict and new attempts to reach a peace settlement have not been successful. In 2005, a faction of the NDFB entered negotiations and signed a ceasefire agreement after suffering heavy losses. This splintered the NDFB and more radical factions that continue to fight.

#### **Darjeeling:**

Gorkhas in the state of West Bengal waged a guerrilla war against the central government from 1986-1988. Anti-foreign riots started in 1979 after a steady infiltration of Hindus and Muslims from other parts of Bengal. Tensions continued until the Accord of Darjeeling peace agreement was concluded in 1988. This accord provided for an autonomous Gorkha district around Darjeeling, which would remain part of West Bengal. It was implemented in The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (Amendment) Act of 1994. After 2007, a second wave of enthusiasm for Gorkhaland was revived by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, however, this time by non-violent means. Nonetheless, the introduction of Bengali into schools, raised tensions in a Nepali-speaking region and as of 2017 conflict appears to be increasing.

#### **Hmar:**

Tension in Mizoram were primarily due to political domination by the Assamese over the Mizo. The Mizo National Front was formed in 1961 in the aftermath of a devastating famine in the Mizo Hills in objection to Indian Government response, or lack of. With popular support the MNF staged an uprising in 1966, but was unable to take control. It was only in 1986 that a peace accord was signed granting Mizoram statehood and the MNF became a political party. The same year the Hmar People's Convention was formed as a political party advocating for the rights of the Hmar which were ignored by the 1986 peace accord. The movement aimed to create an autonomous state in the north of Mizoram. A 1994 agreement between the HPC and Indian government resulted in the formation of the Sinlung Hills Development Council. However, a splinter group - the Hmar People's Convention-Democracy - was formed in 1995 demanding a separate administration.

#### **Manipur:**

The Manipur insurgency is linked to national, ethnic and political identity issues that occupy many of the conflicts in India's northeast that emerged following the independence of India in 1947. Among the largest groups are the United National Liberation Front, the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, the People's Liberation Army of Manipur, and the Kanleipak Communist Party. The conflict continues as of 2017.

#### **Nagaland:**

The exception is Nagaland, wherein tensions predate 1947 and the Nagas announced

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Stage</b>           | Framework/substantive - comprehensive  |
| <b>Conflict nature</b> | Government/territory   |
| <b>Peace process</b>   | India-Hmar-Bodoland peace process  |
| <b>Parties</b>         | SURYAMONI President, BNLF<br>H.V.LALRINGA, Chief Secretary Govt, of Mizoram  |
| <b>Third parties</b>   | -  |
| <b>Description</b>     | Agreement bringing an end to the conflict between the Government of Mizoram and the BNLF whereby the BNLF agrees to lay down arms and dissolve, and the government puts in place new forms of development. |

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**Agreement document** [IN\\_050426\\_Memorandum of Understanding.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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#### Groups

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Children/youth</b>                    | No specific mention. |
| <b>Disabled persons</b>                  | No specific mention. |
| <b>Elderly/age</b>                       | No specific mention. |
| <b>Migrant workers</b>                   | No specific mention. |
| <b>Racial/ethnic/<br/>national group</b> | No specific mention. |
| <b>Religious groups</b>                  | No specific mention. |

**Indigenous people** Groups→Indigenous people→Substantive  
Page 2, 7.  
The Government of Mizoram will take steps for changing Reang to Bru in the Scheduled Tribe List.

Page 2-3, 8.  
After BNLf lay down their arms and join the mainstream, the state Government will take all necessary steps to accelerate the pace of development in western belt of Mizoram covering all Bru settlements. The Special Development Project will be implemented depending upon the quantum of financial assistance received from the Central Government. The Government of Mizoram shall continue to work for the socio-economic upliftment of the Bru people living in different districts of Mizoram.

Page 3, 10.  
The Government of Mizoram agrees to take necessary measures for inclusion of eligible Bru voters in the Electoral Roll with due process of law after they are resettled inside Mizoram.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons** Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive  
Page 1, 1.  
...The Government of Mizoram on its part agrees to take back genuine Reangs from Tripura refugee camps.

Page 2, 5.  
Rehabilitation and resettlement of the BNLf returnees and their family members will be carried out as per scheme prepared separately. The BNLf returnees will be accommodated at Tuipuibari rehabilitation camps for a period not exceeding three months.

Page 3, 9.  
The scheme of reception, rehabilitation and resettlement of repatriated Reang refugees will be implemented after the BNLf lay down their arms.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## **Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** Page 2, 5.  
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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## **Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** Page 3, 10.  
The Government of Mizoram agrees to take necessary measures for inclusion of eligible Bru voters in the Electoral Roll with due process of law after they are resettled inside Mizoram.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties reform** No specific mention.

**Civil society** No specific mention.

**Traditional/religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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## **Power sharing**

**Political power sharing** No specific mention.

**Territorial power sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power sharing** No specific mention.

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## **Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** No specific mention.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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### **Rights related issues**

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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### **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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### **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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**Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development  
Page 2-3, 8.  
After BNLF lay down their arms and join the mainstream, the state Government will take all necessary steps to accelerate the pace of development in western belt of Mizoram covering all Bru settlements. The Special Development Project will be implemented depending upon the quantum of financial assistance received from the Central Government. The Government of Mizoram shall continue to work for the socio-economic upliftment of the Bru people living in different districts of Mizoram.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian  
rights or access** No specific mention.

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## **Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments  
Page 1, 1.  
The BNLF agrees to lay down their arms and ammunitions and come overground to lead normal life as law abiding citizen...

**Police** No specific mention.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.

**DDR** No specific mention.

**Intelligence  
services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces**

Page 1, 1.

The BNLF agrees to lay down their arms and ammunitions and come overground to lead normal life as law abiding citizen...

Page 1, 2.

With the signing of agreement and immediately after laying down of their arms and ammunitions, the BNLF shall stand automatically dissolved and shall cease to exist.

Page 1, 3.

The BNLF will make a complete inventory of their arms and ammunitions and other equipments will be held at Tuipuibari in Mizoram.

Page 1, 4.

After signing this agreement, the BNLF will neither recruit new members nor assist any other insurgent or underground outfit in the form of weapons, money or other assistance directly or indirectly.

Page 2, 5.

Rehabilitation and resettlement of the BNLF returnees and their family members will be carried out as per scheme prepared separately. The BNLF returnees will be accommodated at Tuipuibari rehabilitation camps for a period not exceeding three months.

**Withdrawal of foreign forces**

No specific mention.

**Corruption**

No specific mention.

**Crime/organised crime**

No specific mention.

**Drugs**

No specific mention.

**Terrorism**

No specific mention.

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**Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general**

No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon**

Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper  
Page 2, 6.

The Government of Mizoram will grant amnesty to all those BNLF cadres having criminal cases inside the state. It shall also request other neighbouring state governments to do likewise in respect of those BNLF cadres who have been convicted and kept in jails outside Mizoram.

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Courts</b>           | No specific mention. |
| <b>Mechanism</b>        | No specific mention. |
| <b>Prisoner release</b> | No specific mention. |
| <b>Vetting</b>          | No specific mention. |
| <b>Victims</b>          | No specific mention. |
| <b>Missing persons</b>  | No specific mention. |
| <b>Reparations</b>      | No specific mention. |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>   | No specific mention. |

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#### **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** [http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/92967/17/17\\_appendix.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/92967/17/17_appendix.pdf)

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